



## May 11-12, 2017 -- Macron's time as Economy Minister coincided with major U.S. takeovers of French industries

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WMR's recent article on French President-elect Emmanuel Macron's possible role in the U.S. Intelligence Community completing the seizure of French smart card giant Gemplus International, while Macron was an inspector in the French Industry Ministry triggered immense interest in France. On the heels of our article, we received details of Macron's role as the Minister of Economy, Industry, and Digital Affairs in the second government of Prime Minister Manuel Valls in 2014 in delivering other French industries into the hands of the Americans.

While Economy Minister, Macron, a former Rothschild banker, never raised a single objection as American executives began taking senior positions in the European aerospace giant Airbus. In 2016, a 38-year old American-Ukrainian named Paul Eremenko, took the job of technical director at Airbus. What concerned French labor leaders and Airbus employees is the fact that Eremenko's previous employer was the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which works closely with the Pentagon, Central Intelligence Agency, and National Security Agency in developing new weaponry and surveillance techniques. Eremenko also previously worked with Google, a firm that also has close ties to the U.S. Intelligence Community, owing to its receipt of start-up seed money from IN-Q-TEL, the CIA's venture capital firm that was also involved in the U.S. takeover of Gemplus from the French.

Joining Eremenko at Airbus as the Head of Technology Planning was Olivier de Weck, a Swiss engineer who took a leave of absence from the Engineering Systems Division (ESD) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to take the job with Airbus. In 2015, MIT's ESD, which worked closely with the U.S. Air Force, closed up shop. The French magazine, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, noted that de Weck had been the engineering program manager on the Swiss acquisition of the F/A-18 fighter plane from the large Pentagon contractor McDonnell Douglas. After de Weck arrived at the Airbus R&D center in Suresnes, there was a recommendation from the consulting firm Cap Gemini to close the research and development center in the Paris suburb. There was a fear that Airbus would move many of its R&D positions to Mobile, Alabama, where Airbus was building a final assembly line for the Airbus 320 passenger plane. French workers and their union leaders at Airbus smelled a large American rat, just as was the case in 2001 and 2002 when American executives initially took over key positions at Gemplus's headquarters in the south of France.



The U.S. "invasion" of Airbus followed the 2015 acquisition of the French power firm, Alstom Energy, by the U.S. General Electric Corporation. GE purchased the French turbine manufacturer for \$10 billion. Macron never raised a single objection to the deal, an agreement over which his ministry had oversight. Even French intelligence worried that GE's takeover of Alstom would give the Americans access to French nuclear technology. Alstom provides its Arabelle turbines to two French nuclear technology firms, Areva SA and Électricité de France SA.

When the proposed GE-Alstom deal was first floated in 2014, the French Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg tried to

stop it. GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt called the deal with Alstom

"good for Alstom, for France and for GE." Many French business and labor leaders did not share Immelt's enthusiasm and believed the deal was another takeover of a crown jewel of French industry.

Montebourg issued the "Montebourg Decree" (*décret Montebourg*), which gave the French government the right to veto "foreign takeovers of assets in the fields of energy supply, water, transport, telecoms and public health." Montebourg's stance earned him a dismissal from the Valls cabinet and his replacement by Macron, who raised no objection to the GE takeover of Alstom and the virtual creation of an American "Trojan horse" within the French nuclear industry. One of Macron's first actions was to scrap the Montebourg Decree.

In what went unreported by the media outside of France during the recent presidential campaign, French Airbus workers and former Airbus executives charged Macron, Valls, and President Francois Hollande with treason on behalf of the United States with regard to the American move on Airbus. In fact, many French leftists compare Macron to Marshal Philippe Pétain, the leader of the Nazi puppet Vichy government during World War II.

During the second round of the presidential campaign, the corporate media, including the Rothschild-controlled Reuters, painted National Front candidate Marine Le Pen as the inheritor of the mantle of Pétain and Vichy. All along, however, that title was more accurate when applied to Macron.

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